

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor comprising a photosensitive layer disposed on a substrate, wherein the substrate is aluminum and the photosensitive layer includes a A photosensitive composition comprising an infrared absorbing agent, a sulfonium salt polymerization initiator, a polymerizable compound, a binder polymer having a molecular weight of 5000 to 500,000, and a compound having a weight average molecular weight of 3000 or less and having at least one carboxylic acid group,

wherein the polymerizable compound is an addition-polymerizable compound having at least one ethylenically unsaturated double bond, and

wherein the compound having a weight average molecular weight of 3000 or less and having at least one carboxylic acid group is selected from the group consisting of a trimellitic acid derivative, pyromellitic acid derivative, a succinic acid derivative, and a glycine derivative.

2.-9. (canceled).

10. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9
1, wherein a protective layer is disposed on the photosensitive layer.

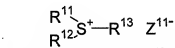
11.-12. (canceled).

13. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9
1, wherein the content of the compound having a weight average molecular weight of 3000 or

less and having at least one carboxylic acid group is 0.5 to 30% by mass based on the total solid content of the composition.

14. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9 1, wherein the sulfonium salt polymerization initiator is an onium salt represented by the following general formula (I):

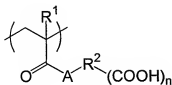
General formula (I)



wherein R^{11} , R^{12} and R^{13} each independently represent an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group having 20 or less carbon atoms, and Z^{11-} represents a counterion selected from the group consisting of a halogen ion, a perchlorate ion, a tetrafluoroborate ion, a hexafluorophosphate ion, a carboxylate ion and a sulfonate ion.

15. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9 1, wherein the binder polymer has a repeating unit represented by the following general formula (i):

General formula (i)



wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R^2 represents a linking group composed of two or more atoms selected from the group consisting of a carbon atom, a hydrogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom and a sulfur atom, and wherein the total number of atoms in R^2 is 2 to 82; A represents an oxygen atom or $-NR^3-$ in which R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or a monovalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms; and n is an integer from 1 to 5.

16. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9 ~~1~~, wherein the infrared absorbing agent is a dye having an absorption maximum at a wavelength of 700 to 1200 nm.

17. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim ~~15~~ 16, wherein the infrared absorbing agent is selected from the group consisting of cyanine dyes, phthalocyanine dyes, oxonol dyes, squarylium dyes, pyrylium salts, thiopyrylium dyes and nickelthiolate complexes.

18. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9 1, wherein a coating amount of the photosensitive layer after drying is 0.1 to 10 g/m².

19. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9 10, wherein the protective layer comprises polyvinyl alcohol as a major component.

20. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9
1, wherein the planographic printing plate precursor is subjected to imagewise exposure with
laser light having a wavelength of 750 to 1400 nm.

21. (currently amended): A ~~photosensitive composition~~ planographic printing plate
precursor according to claim 1, wherein the binder polymer has a molecular weight of from
10,000 to 200,000.

22. (new): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the
aluminum substrate is subjected to surface roughening treatment.

23. (new): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the
aluminum substrate is subjected to anodizing treatment.

24. (new): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein
aluminum substrate is subjected to hydrophilicity-conferring treatment.